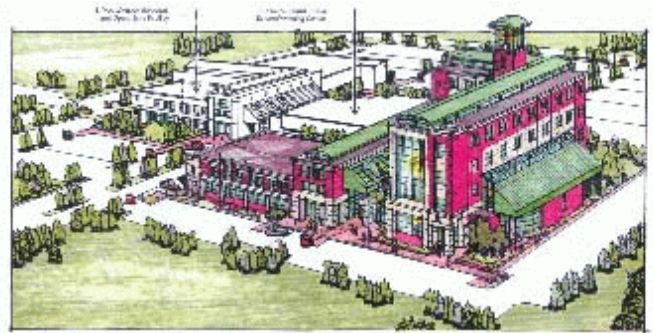


Norman Consolidation

- ± Leverage University Expertise
- ± Modernize Substandard Facilities
- ± Integrate Research & Operations



The current facilities (above left) are home to the Storm Prediction Center (SPC), the National Severe Storms Laboratory (NSSL), the Weather Forecast Office (WFO), and DOC/DOD/DOT-WSR-88D Operational Support Facility (WFO). The proposed new facility (above right).



NOAA Request

NOAA requests \$3,000,000 in the Procurement, Acquisition and Construction (PAC) account to begin detailed design and construction of a new facility to house NWS and OAR operational and research centers at the University of Oklahoma (OU). This facility will bring together NOAA's critical weather warning and forecast operations and research components in Norman with OU's academic expertise in meteorology to form a national weather center.

Background

The National Severe Storms Laboratory (NSSL) has occupied the same building since 1972. At that time NSSL had about 36 federal employees and eight University of Oklahoma affiliates. Twenty six years later those numbers have grown to 54 federal employees, roughly 79 OU employees and two National Research Council post-doctoral candidates.

When the NWS Storm Prediction Center (SPC) was created in late 1995, the operations area was "squeezed" into NSSL space and "temporary" space along with the displaced NSSL components. Currently, SPC space is undersized by 108%, and NSSL by 77%. The current facilities require substantial rehabilitation of electrical and air-conditioning systems and do not meet current federal standards for space allocation and public access.

NOAA plans to partner with the University of Oklahoma (OU) in the construction of a new National Weather Center on the South Base portion of OU's main campus. This 200,000 sq-ft facility will integrate NOAA components with OU's School of Meteorology and all its associated meteorological research functions. For NOAA, this new facility will provide 100,000 sq-ft of modernized space for the National Severe Storms Laboratory (NSSL), the Storm Prediction Center (SPC), the Norman Weather Forecast Office (WFO), and the Training and Applications branches of the Operational Support Facility (OSF).



Storm Prediction Center
Operations Area



The Norman Doppler with trailer



Inside the Doppler trailer

The FY 1999 appropriations report directed that NOAA apply \$150K from its facilities maintenance line item to conduct studies of space requirements for Norman. The Deputy Under Secretary has approved the initiation of detailed scoping as described in Phase Two of the Project Development, Approval and Management (PDAM) process. OMB has identified \$3.0 million for FY 2001 and \$22.0 million for FY 2002 in support of this project.

Proposed Actions

The project is divided into two phases: 1) the new facility at the South Base, and 2) the renovation, with a small addition, of the current facilities at the North Base. Occupancy of Phase One would begin October, 2003 and be completed April, 2004.

Benefits

The collocation with the University will:

- Relieve overcrowding and replace substandard facilities and faulty building systems;
- Eliminate use of temporary modular buildings;
- Create a one-of-a-kind "world-class" National Weather Center that brings research and operations under one roof;
- Enhance collaboration between NOAA research and application components and the University's meteorological research;
- Leverage resources (personnel and facilities) ~ \$5M per year; and
- Speed up implementation of research results into forecast operations.



SPC/NSSL computer room with crowded and stacked computers.